



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Friday, December 19, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety GIITEM state gang task force shuts down a large hydroponic marijuana lab

On Dec. 18, 2008, at about 5:00 p.m., members of GIITEM, the state gang task force which is administered by DPS, served a search warrant on a home at 235 W. 22nd Pl., in Mesa. Detectives had obtained information about a large-scale, marijuana-growing operation at that address. Inside the home, detectives found what they believe to be one of the largest indoor hydroponic marijuana growing operations they have ever encountered. They found at least three dozen plants in various stages of growth. They also found a box full of hydroponic marijuana ready for sale. The street value for a pound of hydroponic marijuana is between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Detectives believe the hydro lab was in business out of this address for the last several years and was an elaborate operation complete with climate controlled rooms that featured special lighting and electrical tracks.

Arrested: David White, 31, of Mesa

Charges: Possession of marijuana, sale of marijuana, use of marijuana and production of marijuana. He also faces a weapons charge.

White was arrested at his place of employment and booked in the Maricopa County Jail.

"It's not surprising our GIITEM detectives would find this hydro lab as part of an ongoing investigation into gang activity in west Mesa. Wherever you find violent gang associations you are sure to find illegal drug dealings. This is a great example of the hard work performed everyday by members of the DPS state gang task force," said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

GIITEM is the Gang and Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission which is administered by DPS

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